

National Community Education Association
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July 12, 2004

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Hoyer:

On behalf of the board of the National Community Education Association, (NCEA) I am writing in support of H.R. 4585 that you recently introduced. NCEA is 38-year-old organization that represents the field of community education/schools. We have long wanted to see federal legislation that will support the concepts embedded in community schools and we are delighted to see the new legislation that has been offered. We are currently working with our membership to find co-sponsors for the bill and hope that our efforts will assist you in passing the legislation.

Community education is growing exponentially across the globe. The concept supports children and their families as they work to improve their lives and thus, their communities. Through the work of NCEA and our International Community Education Association, (ICEA), we have assisted in the development of over 260 programs in Russia and currently have a Hope Fellow from Kosovo here studying our programs in order to start them in that country. Community schools can be a huge contributor to the social capital of a community. H.R. 4595 will help all schools in the process of assuring that all of our children and their families are prepared to be contributing members of society.

NCEA will encourage our members to support this legislation as it is moved forward towards passage.

Thank you for your commitment to this important educational program.

Sincerely,

Starla Jewell-Kelly
Executive Director
NCEA/ICEA

